**Amended Claims**

I claim:

1-19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended) An apparatus for securing structural members of a building together comprising:

a. a unitary body having a rectangular face, approximately right angled bends, and tabs;

b. said rectangular face having the central part of one side of the long dimension extended in the same plane, forming an extended tab;

c. said rectangular face having a generally right angled bend on ~~either~~ both ends of the short dimension each forming a rafter tab;

d. each said rafter tab each having a generally right angled bend forming a plate tab;

e. said rectangular face having a generally right angled bend on the side of the long dimension, opposite the extended side, forming a plurality of sheathing tabs;

f. said rectangular face, said rafter tabs, said sheathing tabs, and said plate tabs all being at approximate right angles to each other forming an open box shape.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said rectangular face having a predetermined length as a spacing means for accurate lateral-spacing of adjacent roof structural members along a top plate of a wall during roof construction.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said rectangular face having a predetermined width as an

enclosing means for covering an open space between a bottom of a roof structural member and the top of the top plate.

23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said extended tab of said rectangular face having a generally trapezoidal shape in the same plane as said rectangular face to aid in nesting and preventing waste during manufacturing.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said extended tab of said rectangular face having a predetermined area and a plurality of nail holes as a fastening means to a side of the top plate of the wall, when mounted on a building.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said rectangular face having a plurality of ventilation ribs between said rafter tabs on the short dimension, and between said sheathing tabs and said extended tab on the long dimension, as a means for strength and ventilation.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said sheathing tabs having the axis of said generally right angled bend~~s generally parallel to~~ on the long dimension of said rectangular face, thereby placing said sheathing tabs generally perpendicular and adjacent to said rectangular face, and said sheathing tabs each having a bolt hole as an attaching means to the underside of a roof, when mounted on a building.

27. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said rafter tabs having said generally right angled bends ~~generally parallel to~~ on each short dimension of said

rectangular face, thereby placing said rafter tabs generally parallel to each other and perpendicular to said rectangular face and generally adjacent to opposite faces of neighboring rafter structural members, when mounted on a building.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said rafter tabs having a predetermined area and a plurality of nail holes as an attaching means to the opposite, vertical edges of said neighboring roof structural members, when mounted on a building, thereby securing said members together at a predetermined distance.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said plate tabs having said generally right angled bends off each rafter tab generally perpendicular to said rectangular face, thereby placing said plate tabs parallel and adjacent to the top of the top plate, when mounted on a building.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said plate tabs having a predetermined area and a plurality of nail holes as an attaching means to the horizontal, top edge of said top plate of the wall.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said sheathing tabs, said rafter tabs, and said plate tabs having attaching means to adjacent structural members, when mounted on a building, thereby forming a strong I-beam shape against the roof and wall structural members, as a means for preventing uplift and lateral movement.

32. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said extended side of said rectangular face, and said plate tabs

having a generally perpendicular aspect to each other, and having attaching means to the adjacent, vertical and horizontal faces of the top plate, thereby placing fasteners in shear, and suppressing thrust forces from the roof to the wall when mounted on a building.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said sheathing tabs, said rafter tabs, said plate tabs, said rectangular face, and said extended side of said rectangular face form a strong, generally box-shape connection between neighboring rafters, the top plate, and bottom of the roof when mounted on a building, thereby preventing uplift, thrusting, and lateral movement of the roof and the wall, as would occur during wind storms and seismic events.

34. (currently amended) A retrofit apparatus for securing structural members of an existing building comprising:

a. two generally flat and generally rectangular ~~planes~~ forming left and right faces <u>with one face partly overlapping the other</u>;

b. said rectangular faces having approximately right angled bends on opposite ends of the short sides, forming rafter tabs having a plurality of nail holes;

c. said rectangular faces each having a single tab on the long side of the bottom extended down, and having a predetermined area and a plurality of nail holes as a means for attachment to outside wall sheathing and an underlying top plate;

d. said rectangular faces each having an approximately right angled bend on top of the long dimension, forming a sheathing tab on opposite ends;

e. one of said faces having horizontal tracks with

openings on one end, and the other face having runners with arms in the same plane, as a sliding means of lateral locking of both ~~plates~~ left and right faces.

35. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said left and right rectangular faces having approximate mirror image of each other.

36. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said tracks on one face allow said runner of other face to enter at the opening, while said arms allow slideable movement along said track.

37. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said ~~plates~~ left and right faces move horizontally when coupled together with said runners and said tracks as a means of placing said rafter tabs adjacent to vertical faces of neighboring rafters, when mounted on a building.

38. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said ~~coupled plates~~ left and right faces move horizontally as a means of placing said rafter tabs against vertical faces of neighboring rafters that are not placed at standard construction spacing, thereby filling the open space between neighboring rafters when mounted on an existing building.

39. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said rafter tabs, said extended tab on each said rectangular face, and said sheathing tabs having ~~attachment~~ attaching means to said rafters, said outside wall sheathing, and said underlying top plate, and to said roof respectively forming a box-like shape, thereby preventing uplift, thrusting, and

lateral movement of a roof and wall ~~of an existing building~~ during strong winds and earth movements when mounted on an existing building.